

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

The Rights of the Executive in the Matter of Appointments.

The Bankrupt Bill Laid Over Again—Mr. Gordon's Source of All Evil—The Pen-don Bill Discussed—Three Measures Discussed and None Proposed—^{to} \$100 Day in the House—A Blow at the Tariff Bill—The Tobacco Tax.

S E N A T E.
MAYDAY, May 6, 1878.

The CHAIR laid before the Senate Home bill to prevent the further retirement of United States notes.

Mr. ALLISON moved its reference to the Finance Committee.

Mr. COCKRELL objected to its reference and asked its second reading.

Mr. MORRILL said if objection was made to its reference he would object to its second reading, and the bill was laid on the table.

A number of petitions, memorials, &c., were presented and referred to appropriate committees.

Among others, by Messrs. COCKRELL, WALLACE, BECK, and ALLISON; For a repeal of the Indian appropriation bill, and both were placed on the calendar.

A number of bills granting pensions were reported from the Committee on Pensions, and placed on the calendar.

INGALLS, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported House bill regulating exemptions in the District of Columbia, with an amendment.

Mr. HARRIS, from the same committee, made an adverse report upon the petition of Joseph Williams, for an appropriation of \$10,000, for work done on Jefferson school building in Washington, D. C. Indefinitely postponed.

Mr. MERRIMON reported adversely the bill relating to foreclosures of mortgages and deeds of trust in the District of Columbia. Indefinitely postponed.

Also, favorably, the bill to transfer the title of the United States, square 109, of the District of Columbia, for the benefit of schools.

Also, bill declaratory of the law relating to debts and inheritances in the District of Columbia in certain cases. Placed on the calendar.

Mr. WHITNEY introduced a bill for the payment of advances made to the United States by the State of Maryland. Referred to Committee on Claims.

On motion of Mr. THURMAN, the Senate took up the bill to re-open the bankrupt act, 1870, and, in view of the language of the act at the time when the act shall go into effect September 1, 1878.

Mr. MERRIMON advocated January 1, 1878, as the proper time, on the ground that it was generally conceded that a bankrupt law was necessary, and that a postponement till that time would allow a new law to be perfected.

Pending discussion the morning hour expired.

Mr. THURMAN moved to suspend prior orders and continue the discussion of the bankrupt act. Agreed to.

The bill was then laid aside, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill to re-open the bankrupt act.

Mr. GORDON addressed the Senate, starting out on the proposition that all advised legislation to-day, and made a speech of an hour and a half in support of this proposition.

On motion of Mr. SARGENT, the Senate, at the conclusion of Mr. GORDON's speech, proceeded to the consideration of the invalid pension appropriation bill.

Messrs. SARGENT, BECK, and DAVIS (W. Va.) advocated the amendment restoring the fee of examining surgeons from \$1 to \$2, and increasing the appropriation from \$50,000 to \$55,000, and it was agreed to without dissent.

Section 2, as passed by the House, reads as follows: "And after July 1, 1878, the office of pension agent shall be filled by wounded or disabled Union soldiers," and the committee recommended that it be stricken out and the following inserted: "That in the appointment of pension agents the preference shall be given to wounded or disabled soldiers."

Mr. SARGENT advocated the substitute proposed by him, that the House bill would vacate all the existing agencies and lead to confusion and embarrassment.

Mr. BECK said he should move to strike out the second section, believing that it was an infringement of the constitutional rights of the Executive. He was aware how sensitive both Houses were to the subject of the soldiers, and he believed there were sections of the country where the same could be elicited to Congress by pandering to their sentiments. Such men were unworthy to be representatives.

Mr. CHRISTIANCY coincided with Mr. SARGENT and Mr. BECK in the proposition that either limitation was an infringement of the rights of the appointing power.

Mr. DOBSEY thought that out of the six or seven hundred soldiers who had been discharged, there could be found those who were qualified for the position, and who could give the necessary bonds.

He offered as a substitute for the section the following:

"That from and after October 1, 1878, the term of all pension-agents shall expire, and thereafter the offices shall be filled by honorable discharges Union veterans."

The constitutionality, and expediency of placing restrictions upon the appointing power, was discussed at considerable length, and a large number of amendments acted upon. Finally a substitute for the committee's amendment, offered by Mr. DOBSEY, was, after several modifications, agreed upon, ready to be voted.

That on the 1st of January, 1879, the term of all pension agents shall expire, and thereafter the offices shall be filled by honorable discharges Union veterans."

This amendment was agreed to—year 27, page 22.

The second section, as it came from the House, was then amended so as to read "that from and after the passage of the act, in case of vacancies from any cause, the office of pension agent shall be filled by wounded or disabled Union veterans, or the wives or daughters of Union soldiers."

Pending a vote on the motion to strike out the House section and insert the committee's amendment as amended by Mr. DOBSEY, the Senate, at 5:40 p.m., on motion of Mr. INGALLS, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. WILLIAMS (Mich.), by unanimous consent, presented the memorial of General Hancock, General Slocum, and a large number of other officers of the Union army, asking Congress to make provision for the publication of Batchelder's History of the Battle of Gettysburg. Referred.

Under the call of States the following, among other bills, were offered and appropriately referred:

Mr. PHELPS: To provide for the protection of attorneys doing business before the Patent-Office and other bureaus of the Government. (It prohibits them summary dismissal, and directs that they shall have a hearing upon any charges preferred.)

By Mr. COX (N. Y.): Supplement to the act incorporating the Columbian College of Washington, D. C.

By Mr. THOMPSON: Joint resolution in relation to the Wood tariff bill. (It declares all propositions to change or modify existing tariff laws as injurious and detrimental to the in-

terests of the people, and that it is unwise to waste the time in discussing the Wood tariff bill at present.)

Mr. THOMPSON moved its reference to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. EDEN thought it should go to the Ways and Means Committee, which had the subject in charge.

Mr. THOMPSON did not want it to go to a committee that would kill it.

By Mr. SAYLER: To authorize the printing, binding, and stereotyping of an indexed catalogue of the library of the Surgeon-General's office.

Mr. VINLEY: Authorizing the appointment of Lucien W. Sperry as a trustee of the National Capital Insurance Company.

Mr. BRENTANO: To amend chapter 15 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the District of Columbia.

By Mr. FORT: Authorizing the Commissioner of the General Land Office to adjust the claims of Illinois and other States in relation to the Homestead Act.

Mr. SHELDY moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill relating to the tax on tobacco. It fixes the tax on snuff and tobacco at sixteen cents per pound, on cigars at \$5 per thousand, on cigarettes weighing less than three pounds per thousand at \$1.25, and on cigarettes weighing more than three pounds per thousand at 25. The vote resulted—yeas 120, nays 115, and the bill was defeated, two-thirds not voting affirmatively.

Mr. SCALES moved to suspend the rules and take up for consideration the bill to establish a permanent form of government for the District of Columbia.

The motion was agreed to, and the House proceeded to consider the bill as Committee of the Whole. Mr. HATTON in the chair.

[Report of the proceedings on this bill will be found elsewhere.]

Without final action the House, at five o'clock p. m., adjourned.

FINANCIAL.

New York Money Market. NEW YORK, May 6, 1878.

Railroad quote, Long 46; short, 46 1/2.

Date for carrying, 14 1/2%.

Government bonds steady at the following quotations:

1871, coupons 100 1/2
1872 100 1/2
1873 100 1/2
1874 100 1/2
1875 100 1/2
1876 100 1/2
1877 100 1/2
1878 100 1/2
1879 100 1/2
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